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20 June 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 20 June 1969

Godfrey noted that the latest satellite photography has raised questions with respect to Soviet truck transport in the Far East and that a detailed analysis is under way.

DD/S reported that the Operations Center and the Signal Center are on emergency power this morning because of a power failure.

DD/S reported that, effective on or about 1 July, financial data will be received from  the Far East via an automated system.

Carver mentioned that he spent most of yesterday seeking to unravel with NSA the technical reporting question raised yesterday. He added that the related memorandum to Secretary Rogers on the infiltration/pipeline matter will be ready for the Director's signature today.

Maury noted that, according to Carl Marcy, at next Monday's executive session of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the members will be most interested in hearing from the Director on the twenty questions which emerged after his appearance before the Gore Subcommittee some six weeks ago. Marcy said that the press is unhappy with this joint appearance by Secretary Laird and the Director, since they feel this somehow creates a mixture of policy with intelligence. Maury added that he has seen nothing on this in the press, but the Director called his attention to this morning's Baltimore Sun. The Director asked that the DD/S&T, Maury, and Bruce Clarke get together this morning to determine what materials should be included in his briefing.

The Director noted that some responsible quarters are saying that there may be a built-in bias to our Estimates. DD/I, DD/S&T,

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and D/ONE identified a number of factors which could lead to this allegation. The Director made it clear that he was not being critical. He pointed to the possible advantage of attaching the basic NIE 11-8-68 to the new Memorandum to Holders of the Estimate as a means of creating better understanding.



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*for* L. K. White

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## Laird And Helms Due Quizzing

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intended to counter the campaign being waged in the Senate by the administration for approval of the ABM. While the margin is close in the entire body, a bipartisan majority of the committee is opposed to deployment.

"This is a shrewd move on Laird's part," said one source. "I'll bet they've got 300 guys down there working on the answers to any embarrassing questions."

Although Senator Fulbright was said to have opposed a tandem appearance of Secretary Laird and Mr. Helms, obviously fearing that an attempt would be made to paper over the alleged differences between them, he finally agreed to the Defense Secretary's demand last night.

Although steps were taken to inform the committee members of the decision, some of them were taken back when questions about it today. The consensus seemed to be that a joint appearance would not result in anything that was new.

## LAIRD AND HELMS DUE QUIZZING

They Are Called Before  
Senate Committee

By NATHAN MILLER

[Washington Bureau of The Sun]

Washington, June 19—The Senate Foreign Relations Committee has called Melvin R. Laird, Secretary of Defense, and Richard Helms, chief of the central Intelligence Agency, to testify Monday about discrepancies in their views of Soviet offensive capability.

At issue is what is contended to be a basic disagreement within the administration over whether the Russians are trying for a "first strike" nuclear capability.

Senator J. William Fulbright (D., Ark.), committee chairman, reluctantly agreed to hear the two ranking officials in tandem only at the strong insistence of Mr. Laird.

The chairman had wanted to question them in separate meetings, apparently with the aim of cross-checking their views. There has been no public announcement of the meeting, to be held behind closed doors.

The question of whether or not the Russians are trying for a "first strike" capability—the ability to destroy American missiles before they can be fired—is central to the decision to build an anti-ballistic missile system. "No Doubt About That"

Mr. Laird, testifying March 21 in support of President Nixon's decision to deploy the Safeguard anti-ballistic missile system, said the Soviet Union is going for our missiles and there is no doubt about that.

But an unpublished committee staff study contends the United States Intelligence board, comprised of the top security agencies and headed by Mr. Helms, has not concluded that the Soviet SS-9 missile was deployed to develop a first-strike capability.

Deployment by the Russians of 200 SS-9 missiles, each capable of carrying a 20-to-25-megaton warhead, is one of the key reasons advanced by Secretary Laird for the decision to build the ABM. It is designed to protect United States Minuteman missiles and bombers from a pre-emptive Soviet strike.

The staff study, said to be based for the most part on information given the committee by Mr. Helms, said United States intelligence agencies have known about the SS-9 for years and the latest estimates indicate that the Russians have slowed deployment of the missile rather than expanding deployment as contended by Mr. Laird.

On Tuesday, the committee decided at a closed meeting against releasing the report and voted instead to ask Mr. Laird to come before it to explain the differences between what he and other officials have been saying. The document obviously was